WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. An analgesic composition which comprises at least one analgesic drug in an extended release form in combination with an analgesia-enhancing amount of at least one nontoxic N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor antagonist in an immediate release form.

2. The analgesic composition of Claim 1 wherein the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of dextromethorphan, dextrorphan, memantine, amantidine, d-methadone and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

3. The analgesic composition of Claim 1 wherein the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist is present in an immediate release carrier.

4. The analgesic composition of Claim 1 wherein the analgesic drug is selected from the group consisting essentially of non-narcotic analgesics, coal tar analgesics, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, gabapentin, substance P antagonists, capsaicin, capsaicinoids, and cyclooxygenase-II (COX II) inhibitors.

5. The analgesic composition of Claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of the analgesic drug to the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist ranges from about 2:1 to about 1:10.

6. The analgesic composition of Claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of the analgesic drug to the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist ranges from about 1:1 to about 1:5.

7. The analgesic composition of Claim 1 wherein the analgesic drug is an analgesically effective amount of at least one opioid analgesic and the analgesic composition is substantially free of opioid antagonist.

8. The analgesic composition of Claim 7 wherein the opioid analgesic is at least one member selected from the group consisting of alfentanil, allylprodine, alphaprodine, anileridine, benzylmorphine, bezitramide, buprenorphine, butorphanol, clonitazene, codeine, desomorphine, dextromoramide, dezocine, diampromide, diamorphone, dihydrocodeine, dihydromorphine, dimenoxadol, dimepheptanol, dimethylthiambutene, dioxaphetyl butyrate, dipipanone, eptazocine, ethoheptazine, ethylmethylthiambutene, ethylmorphine, etonitazene, fentanyl, heroin, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, hydroxypethidine, isomethadone, ketobemidone, levorphanol, levophenacylmorphan, lofentanil, meperidine, meptazinol, metazocine, methadone, metopon, morphine, myrophine, narceine, nicomorphine, norlevorphanol, normethadone, nalorphine, nalbuphine, normorphine, norpipanone, opium, oxycodone, oxymorphone, papaveretum, pentazocine, phenadoxone, phenomorphan, phenazocine, phenoperidine, piminodine, piritramide, propheptazine, promedol, properidine, propoxyphene, sufentanyl, tilidine, tramadol and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

9. The analgesic composition of Claim 7 wherein the opioid analgesic is at least one member selected from the group consisting of codeine, dihydrocodeine, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, levorphanol, meperidine, methadone, morphine, oxycodone, oxymorphone, propoxyphene and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

10. The analgesic composition of Claim 8 wherein the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of dextromethorphan, dextrorphan, memantine, amantidine, d-methadone and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

11. The analgesic composition of Claim 1 wherein the extended release form is an extended release carrier comprising a base material selected from the group consisting of a hydrophilic polymer, a hydrophobic polymer, a long chain hydrocarbon, a polyalkylene glycol, higher aliphatic alcohols, acrylic resins, and mixtures thereof.

12. The analgesic composition of Claim 11 wherein the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist is applied to the extended release carrier's exterior surface.

13. The analgesic composition of Claim 1 wherein the extended release form comprises a base material having a coating that controls the release of the analgesic drug.

14. The analgesic composition of Claim 13 wherein the coating includes the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist.

15. The analgesic composition of Claim 1 which is a liquid dosage form.

16. The analgesic composition of Claim 15 which is an injectable dosage form.

17. The analgesic composition of Claim 7 wherein the weight ratio of the opioid analgesic to the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist is about 1:1.

18. The analgesic composition of Claim 7 wherein the daily dosage of opioid analgesic is from about 1 mg to about 800 mg per 70 kg body weight and the daily dosage of nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist is from about 10 mg to about 750 mg per 70 kg body weight.

19. The analgesic composition of Claim 7 wherein the daily dosage of opioid analgesic is from about 10 mg to about 500 mg per 70 kg body weight and the daily dosage of nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist is from about 30 mg to about 500 mg per 70 kg body weight.

20. The analgesic composition of Claim 7 wherein the opioid analgesic is selected from the group consisting of fentanyl and sufentanyl in a daily dosage of from about 100 μg to about 6 mg per 70 kg body weight and the daily dosage of nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist is from about 10 mg to about 750 mg per 70 kg body weight.

21. An analgesic composition which comprises an analgesically effective amount of at least one opioid analgesic selected from the group consisting of codeine, dihydrocodeine, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, levorphanol, meperidine, methadone, morphine, oxycodone, oxymorphone, propoxyphene, tramadol and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts in an extended release form, and an opioid analgesia-enhancing amount of dextromethorphan in an immediate release form, wherein the analgesic composition is substantially free of opioid antagonist.

22. The analgesic composition of Claim 21 wherein the dextromethorphan is present in an immediate release carrier.

23. The analgesic composition of Claim 21 wherein the extended release form is an extended release carrier comprising a base material selected from the group consisting of a hydrophilic polymer, a hydrophobic polymer, a long chain hydrocarbon, a polyalkylene glycol, higher aliphatic alcohols, acrylic resins, and mixtures thereof.

24. The analgesic composition of Claim 23 wherein the dextromethorphan is applied to the extended release carrier's exterior surface.

25. The analgesic composition of Claim 21 wherein the weight ratio of the opioid analgesic to the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist ranges from about 2:1 to about 1:10.

26. The analgesic composition of Claim 21 wherein the weight ratio of the opioid analgesic to the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist ranges from about 1:1 to about 1:5.

27. The analgesic composition of Claim 21 wherein the weight ratio of the opioid analgesic to the dextromethorphan is about 1:1.

28. The analgesic composition of Claim 21 wherein the daily dosage of opioid analgesic is from about 1 mg to about 800 mg per 70 kg body weight and the daily dosage of dextromethorphan is from about 10 mg to about 750 mg per 70 kg body weight.

29. The analgesic composition of Claim 21 wherein the daily dosage of opioid analgesic is from about 10 mg to about 500 mg per 70 kg body weight and the daily dosage of dextromethorphan is from about 30 mg to about 500 mg per 70 kg body weight per unit dose.

30. An analgesic composition consisting essentially of at least one analgesic drug in an extended release form in combination with an analgesia-enhancing amount of at least one nontoxic N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor antagonist in an immediate release form.

31. The analgesic composition of Claim 30 wherein the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of

dextromethorphan, dextrorphan, memantine, amantidine, d-methadone, and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

32. The analgesic composition of Claim 30 wherein the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist is present in an immediate release carrier.

33. The analgesic composition of Claim 30 wherein the analgesic drug is selected from the group consisting essentially of non-narcotic analgesics, coal tar analgesics, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, gabapentin, substance P antagonists, capsaicin, capsaicinoids, and cyclooxygenase-II (COX II) inhibitors.

34. The analgesic composition of Claim 30 wherein the weight ratio of the analgesic drug to the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist ranges from about 2:1 to about 1:10.

35. The analgesic composition of Claim 30 wherein the weight ratio of the analgesic drug to the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist ranges from about 1:1 to about 1:5.

36. The analgesic composition of Claim 30 wherein the weight ratio of the analgesic drug to the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist is about 1:1.

37. The analgesic composition of Claim 30 wherein the analgesic drug is an analgesically effective amount of at least one opioid analgesic and the analgesic composition is substantially free of opioid antagonist.

38. The analgesic composition of Claim 37 wherein the opioid analgesic is at least one member selected from the group consisting of alfentanil, allylprodine, alphaprodine, anileridine, benzylmorphine, bezitramide, buprenorphine, butorphanol, clonitazene, codeine, desomorphine, dextromoramide, dezocine, diampromide, diamorphone, dihydrocodeine, dihydromorphine, dimenoxadol, dimepheptanol, dimethylthiambutene, dioxaphetyl butyrate, dipipanone, eptazocine, ethoheptazine, ethylmethylthiambutene, ethylmorphine, etonitazene, fentanyl, heroin, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, hydroxypethidine, isomethadone, ketobemidone, levorphanol, levophenacylmorphan, lofentanil, meperidine, meptazinol, metazocine, methadone, metopon, morphine, myrophine, narceine, nicomorphine, norlevorphanol, normethadone, nalorphine, nalbuphine, normorphine, norpipanone, opium, oxycodone, oxymorphone, papaveretum, pentazocine, phenadoxone, phenomorphan, phenazocine, phenoperidine, piminodine, piritramide, propheptazine, promedol, properidine, propoxyphene, sufentanyl, tilidine, tramadol and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

39. The analgesic composition of Claim 37 wherein the opioid analgesic is at least one member selected from the group consisting of codeine, dihydrocodeine, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, levorphanol, meperidine, methadone, morphine, oxycodone, oxymorphone, propoxyphene and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

40. The analgesic composition of Claim 37 wherein the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of dextromethorphan, dextrorphan, memantine, amantidine, d-methadone and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

41. The analgesic composition of Claim 30 wherein the extended release form is an extended release carrier comprising a base material selected from the group consisting of a hydrophilic polymer, a hydrophobic polymer, a long chain hydrocarbon, a polyalkylene glycol, higher aliphatic alcohols, acrylic resins, and mixtures thereof.

42. The analgesic composition of Claim 41 wherein the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist is applied to the extended release carrier's exterior surface.

43. The analgesic composition of Claim 30 wherein the extended release form comprises a base material having a coating that controls the release of the analgesic drug.

44. The analgesic composition of Claim 43 wherein the coating includes the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist.

45. The analgesic composition of Claim 30 which is a liquid dosage form.

46. The analgesic composition of Claim 45 which is an injectable dosage form.

47. The analgesic composition of Claim 37 wherein the weight ratio of the opioid analgesic to the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist ranges from about 2:1 to about 1:10.

48. The analgesic composition of Claim 37 wherein the weight ratio of the opioid analgesic to the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist ranges from about 1:1 to about 1:5.

49. The analgesic composition of Claim 37 wherein the weight ratio of the opioid analgesic to the nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist is about 1:1.